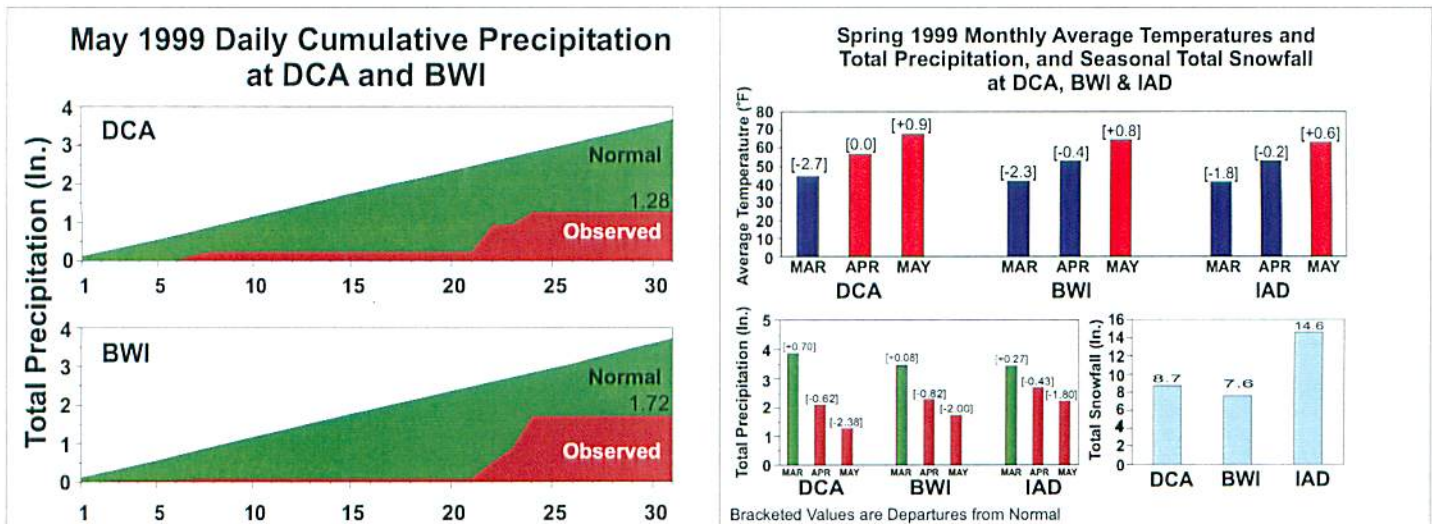


**PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS  
FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA**

**MAY 1999 & SPRING REVIEW**

**MAY: EXTENDED PERIODS OF DRY WEATHER  
SPRING: COLD AND SNOWY START FOLLOWED BY  
SEASONABLE TEMPERATURES AND DRY CONDITIONS**



**HIGHLIGHTS**

**MONTHLY**

- Near to slightly above normal temperatures and subnormal precipitation across the Washington/Baltimore area;
- 20 days with at or above normal temperatures at DCA;
- First 90°F+ reading of the year at DCA (92°F), BWI (91°F) and IAD (90°F) on the 30th;
- Eighth driest May on record in Washington (1.28"), 9th driest at BWI (1.72) and 7th driest at IAD (2.22");
- Only 5 days with measurable precipitation ( $\geq 0.01$ "") at DCA and IAD, and 6 such days at BWI;
- 13 consecutive days (9th-21st) without measurable precipitation at the three major airports.

**SEASONAL**

- Near to slightly below normal temperatures and subnormal precipitation across the local area;
- 50 days (54%) with at or below normal temperatures at DCA;
- A cold March with monthly departures near -3°F, 10 days with lows at or below freezing and one day with subfreezing highs at DCA;
- Last freeze of season at DCA on March 23rd, on April 6th at BWI and April 25th at IAD;
- Only 2 days with 90°F+ readings at DCA and one at both BWI and IAD;
- Driest Spring since 1987 at DCA (7.24"), 7th driest on record at BWI (7.45") and driest since 1986 at IAD (8.34");
- A snowstorm on March 9th dumped nearly a foot of snow across northern Virginia and generated the largest daily March snowfall total (8.4") ever observed at DCA;
- More snowfall in March (8.7") at DCA than in the previous two calendar years combined;
- Strong thunderstorms on April 23rd generated brief, heavy rains and large hail across parts of northern Virginia and southern Maryland;
- Dry weather dominated during the last half of Spring with only 1.77" of rain observed and 2 periods with 13 consecutive days (April 24th-May 6th & May 9th-21st) without measurable precipitation ( $\geq 0.01$ ) at DCA.

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[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/PRESTO](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/PRESTO) or <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om>